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Report of the Committee of the Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Philadelphia, appointed for the Gradual Civilization, &c., of the Indian Natives, presented to the Meeting 4th mo. 21st, 1841, and directed to be printed for the use of the members.

## TO THE YEARLY MEETING.

The Committee charged with promoting the Gradual Improvement and Civilization of the Indian Natives, Report:

That although they have given the usual attention to this interesting concern, there are but few subjects in their operations since the last report which require notice. The Indians have been in a very unsettled condition during the past year, in consequence of the embarrassment and distress produced by the ratification of the treaty, and their uncertainty as to the best course to be pursued by them in their trying and perplexing circumstances. They still cling to the hope that they shall be able to ward off the calamity which threatens them, either through the favourable disposition of the new administration and senate to give their case a rehearing, or by an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States. Small as the hope afforded by these sources may appear to a disinterested observer, they are buoyed up by it, and seem as unwilling as ever to look

toward relinquishing their present homes.

In a communication addressed to the Committee, dated, Tunesassah, 5 mo. 24th, 1840, signed by ten chiefs, they say: "Although the information of the ratification of the treaty is distressing to us, yet it is a satisfaction to hear from you, and to learn that you still remember us in our troubles, and are disposed to advise and assist us. The intelligence of the confirmation of the treaty caused many of our women to shed tears of sorrow. We are sensible that we stand in need of the advice of our friends. Our minds are unaltered on the subject of emigration." Another, dated Cold Spring, 12th mo. 8th, 1840, holds this language: "Brothers, we continue to feel relative to the treaty as we have ever felt. We cannot regard it as an act of our nation, or hold it to be binding on us. We still consider that in justice the land is at this time as much our own as ever it was. done nothing to forfeit our right to it; and have come to a conclusion to remain upon it as long as we can enjoy it in peace." "We trust in the Great Spirit: to Him we submit our cause."

A letter from the Senecas residing at Tonawanda, was addressed to the Committee, from which

the following extracts are taken:

"By the help of the Great Spirit we have met in open council this 23d day of the 5th month, 1840, for the purpose of deliberating on the right course for us to pursue under the late act of the government of the United States relating to our lands. Brothers, we are in trouble; we have been told that the president has ratified a treaty by which these lands are sold from our possession. We look to you and solicit your advice and your sympathy under the accumulating difficulties that now surround us. We feel more than ever, our need of the help of the great and good Spirit, to guide us aright. May his counsel ever preserve and direct us all in true wisdom. "It is known to you, brothers, that at different times our people have been induced to cede, by

stipulated treaties, to the government of the United States, various tracts of our territory, until it is so reduced that it barely affords us a home. We had hoped by these liberal concessions to secure the quiet and unmolested possession of this small residue, but we have abundant reason to fear that we have been mistaken. The agent and surveyor of a company of land speculators,

known as the Ogden Company, have been on here to lay out our land into lots, to be sold from us to the whites. We have protested against it, and have forbidden their proceeding.

"Brothers, what we want is that you should intercede with the United States government on our behalf. We do not want to leave our lands. We are willing that the emigrating party

should sell out their rights, but we are not willing that they should sell our."

"Brothers, we want the president of the United States to know that we are for peace; that we only ask the possession of our just rights. We have kept in good faith all our agreements with the government. In our innocence of any violation we ask its protection. In our weakness we look to it for justice and mercy. We desire to live upon our lands in peace and harmony. We love Tonawanda. It is the residue left us of the land of our forefathers. We have no wish to leave it. Here are our cultivated fields, our houses, our wives and children, and our firesides—and here we wish to lay our bones in peace."

"Brothers, in conclusion, we desire to express our sincere thanks to you for your friendly assistance in times past, and at the same time earnestly solicit your further attention and advice.

Brothers, may the Great Spirit befriend you all-farewell."

Desirous of rendering such aid as might be in our power, a correspondence has been held with some members of Congress, on the subject of the treaty, and other matters connected with it; and recently, two of our number visited Washington, and were assured by the present secretary of war, under whose immediate charge the Indian affairs are placed, that it was his determination and that of the other officers of the government, to give to the treaty and the circumstances attending its procurement, a thorough examination; and to adopt such a course respecting it as justice and humanity to the Indians would dictate.

The friends who have for several years resided at Tunesassah, still continue to occupy the farm, and have charge of the saw and grist mills, and other improvements. The farm during the past year has yielded about thirty-five tons of hay, two hundred bushels of potatoes, one hundred bushels of oats, and one hundred bushels of apples. Notwithstanding the unsettlement produced by the treaty during the past season, the Indians have raised an adequate supply of provisions to keep them comfortably during the year; and they manifest an increased desire to avoid the use of ardent spirits, and to have their children educated. In their letter of the 12th month last, the chiefs say, "We are more engaged to have our children educated than we have heretofore been. There

are at this time three schools in operation on this reservation for the instruction of our youth."

Our friend, Joseph Batty, in a letter dated 28th of 2nd mo. last, says, "The Indians have held several temperance councils this winter.

The chiefs, (with the exception of two who were not present,) have all signed a pledge to abstain from the use of all intoxicating liquors; and appear engaged to bring about a reform among their people; but the influence of the whites among them is prejudicial to their improvement in this and other respects."

By direction of the Committee,

THOMAS WISTAR, Clk.

Philadelphia, 4th month, 15th, 1811.

INDIAN COMMITTEE REPORT











